OF

Notice of Allowability 10/660,571 NOGUCHI ET AL.	
Notice of Allowability Examiner Hoan H. Tran 2852 The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS	
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of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.	
1. This communication is responsive to <u>Supplemental Preliminary Amendment filed 09/21/2004</u> .	
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are <u>1-56</u> .	
3. The drawings filed on 12 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.	
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some* c) None of the: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). * Certified copies not received: Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE. 5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF 	;
INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted. (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date	
 (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d). 	
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.	
Attachment(s) 1. ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. ☑ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 9/03, 12/03, 6/04 4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material 5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 7. ☑ Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. ☑ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. ☐ Other	

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Claims:

- Claim 24, line 1, "A" has been changed to --The--.
- Claim 47, line 1, "27" has been changed to --43--.
- Claim 48, line 1, "A" has been changed to -- The--.

Allowable Subject Matter

- 2. Claims 1-56 are allowed.
- 3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

None of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a color image forming apparatus having the intermediate transfer member arranged with a predetermined angle relative to the horizontal line such that a rear side of the intermediate transfer member away from the recording sheet is lifted and a front side of the intermediate transfer member closer to the recording sheet is lowered; and a plurality of the image creating mechanisms are aligned in parallel and are arranged along and parallel to the image transfer bed of the intermediate transfer member such that one of the plurality of image creating mechanisms firstly forming an image faces the rear

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side of the image transfer bed and another one of the plurality of image creating mechanisms

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lastly forming an image faces the front side of the image transfer bed.

Prior Art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure:

- Takada [2003/0235440] discloses an image forming apparatus comprising an

intermediate transfer member.

- Yamada [2004/0228664] discloses an image forming apparatus.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Hoan H. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2141. The

examiner can normally be reached from 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Mr. Arthur Grimley can be reached at (571) 272-2136. The central office fax number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

HHT

Jan. 07, 2005

HOANTRAN

HIMAHY EXAMINER